

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8692

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS FOLLOW-UP TO YESTERDAY'S

STORIES ON SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO CONGRESSIONAL WIVES

REF: LONDON 3095

1. SUMMARY: BRITISH PRESS TODAY (MARCH 13) CARRIES FOLLOW-UP STORIES TO THOSE REPORTED REFTEL. "TIMES" AND "GUARDIAN" REPORT THAT SECRETARY IS ANXIOUS TO ASSUAGE EUROPEAN ANGER OVER HIS REMARKS TO CONGRESSIONAL WIVES, WHILE "FINANCIAL TIMES" CARRIES STORY THAT ARGUES SECRETARY IS DELIBERATELY SEEKING TO PICK A QUARREL WITH EC. END SUMMARY

2. "TIMES" CARRIES STORY ON PAGE SIX BY PATRICK BROGAN DATED LINED WASHINGTON AND CAPTIONED: "DR. KISSINGER EXPLAINS WHAT HE MEANT BY CRITICIZING ALLIES." BROGAN REPORTS THAT SECRETARY ISSUED STATEMENT "FOLLOWING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OLD PRINCIPLE NEVER APOLOGIZE, NEVER EXPLAIN, ADMITTING

THAT THERE ARE MANY DIFFICULTIES FACING THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO SOLVE THEM."

3. AFTER QUOTING STATEMENT AT LENGTH, BROGAN REFERRED AGAIN TO SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO CONGRESSIONAL WIVES AND SPECIFICALLY TO MACEDON-ROME ALLUSION: "IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHO DR. KISSINGER HAS CAST IN THE ROLE OF MACEDON AND WHO IN THAT OF ROME (AND WHO IS ALEXANDER THE GREAT)? IT IS MORE TO THE POINT AND MORE INTERESTING TO DISCOVER WHY AMERICA'S ONLY EUROPEAN-BORN SECRETARY OF STATE IS THE ONE IN SEVERAL GENERATIONS WHO UNDERSTANDS EUROPE THE LEAST. AT ALL EVENTS, DR. KISSINGER'S EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY SEEMS TO BE HEADING INEXORABLY TOWARDS FAILURE."

4. IN NEIGHBORING COLUMN, ALSO DATELINED WASHINGTON, IS A STORY BY FRED EMERY CAPTIONED: "BRITAIN IS ASKED TO EXCUSE THE BLUNDER." EMERY REPORTS "AUTHORITATIVELY" THAT "DR. KISSINGER HAS QUIETLY SOUGHT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S UNDERSTANDING FOR THE BLUNDER THAT LED TO WIDESPREAD PUBLICATION OF HIS LATEST CRITICISM OF EUROPEAN ALLIES." ARTICLE THEN REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM TOLD BRITISH JOURNALISTS HOW STRUCK HE HAD BEEN BY DR. KISSINGER'S COURTESIES TO HIM IN THE WEEKS SINCE HE ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON.

5. "FINANCIAL TIMES" CARRIES FOUR COLUMN STORY BY PAUL LEWIS CAPTIONED "KISSINGER PICKS A QUARREL," IN WHICH LEWIS ARGUES THESIS THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS DELIBERATELY PICKED A QUARREL WITH EC NOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BRITISH ELECTION RESULT AND TO FORCE EC TO REFASHION ITSELF AND ITS ATTITUDES ALONG MORE ATLANTICIST LINES.

6. "GUARDIAN" CARRIES STORY ON PAGE TWO "FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT, WASHINGTON" CAPTIONED: "APPEAL TO FORGET AND FORGIVE." ARTICLE STATES THAT SECRETARY "NOW REALIZES THAT HIS REMARKS ... HAVE NOT ENDEARED HIM TO THE EC COUNTRIES AND HE APPARENTLY WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO FORGET ABOUT THE SPEECH."

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7. AFTER REPORTING DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON SECRETARY'S REMARKS, ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT "IF DR. KISSINGER HOPES THAT ALL WILL NOW BE FORGIVEN AND FORGOTTEN, HE IS PROBABLY WRONG." ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT SECRETARY'S "LANGUAGE WAS MUCH MORE VIVID AND EXTREME IN THE PLANE TRAVELLING BACK LAST WEEK FROM BRUSSELS TO WASHINGTON, IN CONVERSATION WITH SOME OF THE JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING HIM."

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